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Command Post, VII Corps

1. In late May 1952, the command post of the VII Corps, North Korean army, with approximately 500 army personnel including 200 officers, was in twelve caves on the side of a hill and in village houses approximately 500 meters north of Yonghungni-so-dong (126-37, 39-09) (BU-9436). The caves were used as follows: four for administrative offices; two for the storage of weapons, ammunition, motor parts, tools, and oil; two for the storage of rations and clothing; and four for living quarters for enlisted men. The caves were equipped with electricity and there was a communications system in the caves which were used as administrative offices.
2. In late May the staff of the command post included the chiefs of the following sections: the reconnaissance section; the engineering section; the ordnance section; the operations section, with the assistant chief of operations also included on the staff; the medical section; the personnel section; the political section; the propaganda unit; the security section; and the commanding officers of an anti-aircraft artillery company and a guard company.
3. In late May there were 4 x 25-mm. anti-aircraft machine guns¹ and 12 light machine guns in position around the command post. A guard unit was responsible for spotting aircraft and guarding the command post area. The cave entrances were camouflaged with green foliage.

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Disbandment of VIII Corps

4. On 16 December 1951, the VIII Corps, North Korean army, was disbanded north of Ch'orwon. In January 1952, some former officers and non-commissioned officers of the VIII Corps were sent to T'unghua (125-57, 41-43), Manchuria to take charge of training new recruits. Other officers and enlisted men who had served in artillery, engineering, and other technical branches were transferred to the North Korean I, II, III, and IV Corps. The remaining 3,000 officers and enlisted men of the III Corps joined 3,000 men of the former North Korean VI Corps, which had been disbanded in October 1951. The 6,000 men formed the 22 Brigade, which was attached to the North Korean Army Rear Service Department. The 22 Brigade set up headquarters at Ongjin.

Independent Reconnaissance Unit, VIII Corps

5. On 16 February 1952, the North Korean Independent Reconnaissance Unit was organized for reconnaissance activities in Chinese Communist areas of the front in Korea and was attached to the North Korean VIII Corps. The new unit was organized from reconnaissance elements which had originally been attached to the reconnaissance section of the VIII Corps but had been disbanded and made subordinate to Chinese Communist Army divisions. In April and May 1952, the Independent Reconnaissance Unit, numbering 130 men, maintained a command post at Yongsan-tong, Kaesong (126-33, 37-58) (BT-852047).
6. The Independent Reconnaissance Unit is commanded by Senior Lieutenant YU Kwan-sik, aged 31. The deputy commander for political affairs is Lieutenant PAK Kong-ch'ol, aged 24. The unit is composed of four guidance groups: the 1 Guidance Group, at Yonan-up Hot Springs (approximately 126-10, 37-54) (BS-567983), with 29 men divided into 4 teams; the 2 Guidance Group, at Chanam-san (126-34, 37-59) (BT-857055), Kaesong City, commanded by Junior Lieutenant O To-yong, aged 30, with 29 men divided into 4 teams; the 3 Guidance Group, at Kuhwa-ri (126-49, 38-05) (OT-083175), with 29 men divided into 4 teams; and the 4 Guidance Group, at P'yongyang (127-18, 38-25) (OT-515525), commanded by KANG Sok-pom, aged 27, with 29 men divided into 4 teams. The 4 Guidance Group made four infiltrations into South Korea during April 1952.

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Comment. Possibly Soviet-made 25-mm. anti-aircraft guns, M1940.